

# SPRING TUB GOWNS

Models That Can Be Copied by the Home Seamstress.

## PROBLEM OF THE SLEEVES

Four Changes in the Modish Lines Dress Not Seen.

Advantages of Home Dressmaking—Woman's Propensity for Shopping Justified—Some White Costumes Capable of Giving a Ser vice—The Band on the Skirt Bottom—Black and White Effects—One Piece Dresses and Laundry Difficulties—Many Versions of the Sailor Collar—Black Used to Relieve Many Linen and Cotton Frocks.

The notion counters are fearsome places nowadays, and the purchase of a spool of white cotton or a card of hooks and eyes is likely to be attended by much wear and tear and an incredible expenditure of time. By late afternoon the girls behind



PALE BLUE LINEN.

the counters are tired and nervous, the floorwalkers are worried, the wrappers are worn to a frazzle, and yet the women are standing three deep in the aisles clamoring for needles and featherbones and a thousand other small things which play their part in the dressmaking scheme.

For this, be it known, is the beginning of the home seamstress season; and while dressmakers are offering special inducements during January and February in order to secure customers between seasons, the seamstresses who go out by the day and the women who do much of their own summer sewing are already hard at work on linens and cot-



BLACK AND WHITE VOILE.

tons and foulards, &c. One may hesitate about paying a successful dressmaker's price for a frock before spring modes are positively set, but one can take a chance upon one's simple home made muslins and other cool frocks.

As matter of fact one really need not feel much doubt about ordering even a few of the more expensive things. It is a comfort to be ready for the first warm spring days and to avoid the hurry and skurry of later choosing and ordering.



WHITE LINEN AND BLACK SILK.

and, moreover, one has now, as has been said before, the advantage of obtaining price concessions from almost any first class dressmaker or tailor who wants to keep all of his workfolk and for the moment has but little to keep them busy.

New materials of all kinds are on view, and while the very latest cry of spring fashion has not yet been heard one cannot go far wrong in conservative guessing. The Southern models show that designers do not look for any radical changes, and many of the prettiest of these



A FROCK OF BLACK AND WHITE STRIPED SATIN TRIMMED WITH BLACK SATIN AND LACE, AND AN EMBROIDERED WHITE LINON FROCK WITH LACE AND BLACK SILK.

models are but popular winter models translated into summer materials. The white linen one-piece frock of the sketch is, for example, copied with slight modifications from a La Boniere model in white broadcloth which was a last fall importation and which was pictured in THE SUN at the time. The same model is shown in the white serge and is really delightful in this latter material.

And this recalls the justification for woman's shopping. Men find an enormous satisfaction in seeing at woman's profligacy for going from shop to shop and looking at a host of things before choosing one. According to the humorists and the much vaunted masculine sense of humor the average woman follows this course from sheer love of the occupation, but women know better. They have found by experience, often bitter, that prices vary decidedly in different shops and it is a maddening thing to fall in love with a model at first sight, buy it and an hour later find the same thing at a price much lower. There are differences of quality too in the same models; for the wholesale manufacturers

import models—often the same French models—or buy them of the importers and repeat them according to their own methods and standards. The women of the upper West Side are gradually awakening to the fact that they can do a good deal of their shopping very satisfactorily in their own neighborhood and that prices are lower in proportion as rents are less than rents in the main shopping districts. In one of these small uptown shops the other day there was a collection of summer models distinctly attractive and at prices that were undeniably tempting. For example, the model in fine white serge already referred to and which had been admired in a Fifth Avenue show-room at \$25 was offered in the uptown place for \$20. The embroidered white marquisette and lace with a note of black which figures in the large cut and was offered for \$35 in the smart and exclusive shop was priced at \$25 uptown.

Shop, Madames. Pay no attention to the mere men and their time honored money jokes, but shop industriously and painstakingly. It will probably consume much time and give you backaches and headaches, but it will, if you are clever, make your dress allowance go very much further than it would otherwise, and even the most superior husband will admit that such a phenomenon would be no inconsequential joke.

That white marquisette, by the way, is an attractive and youthful between seasons frock, capable of giving service all through the summer and charming for house wear or Southern wear now. The embroidery—whisper it—is done by machine, but it is amazing to see what effective and beautiful machine embroidery is now accomplished, and much of it in the better quality is hardly to be distinguished from the laborer's hand work. The Russian lace and the finer lace used upon the model are good and the way in which the peasant sleeve and shoulder of lace are handled is worth noting as is the shadowy block of black chiffon under the open Russian lace and the black bordering the skirt bottom.

A dark band on the skirt bottom is tremendously practical, postponing by many weeks the visit to the cleaner's and, though it is not new, women will be glad to see the idea embodied in many of the smartest new models.

There is the second model of the central sketch, for instance, an extremely chic one-piece frock in lightweight silk, which would be very useful all through the spring and summer. The coloring is black and white, a fad which is apparently not to be allowed to die with the winter season, if one may judge by the

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of vivid color are a fold of soft yet brilliant rose silk crossing from one side to the other of the collar front just at the base of the throat with a little knot at each end and butterfly knots of the same rose set on the outside of the lace sleeve bands. This frock is easily copied yet eminently French in its air.

Given a good pattern of a simple, straight and conservatively narrow skirt and a pattern of an equally simply waist of the Magyar or peasant style, it should be an easy matter for the home seamstress to duplicate any one of a host of pretty one piece models in the new materials. Luckily such patterns are available in any one of a number of places where such aids to dressmaking are the stock in trade, and given the body of the frock, the little details which give individuality and cachet to such a frock are a matter of idea rather than of execution. That is almost any one can accom-

plish them if she has the idea, and an expedition to various shops which specialize in such simple smartness will furnish any observing woman with the ideas.

There are women who object to the modish sleeve, Japanese, Magyar, peasant or whatever one chooses to call it, as a detail of the tub frock, because it promises to add to the already difficult problems of summer laundering, and the point is well taken. The average laundress would undoubtedly play havoc with such a shoulder and sleeve by stretching and pulling, and this fact needs to be considered in connection with general utility cotton or linen frocks that will go regularly and often to the tub, though if the material is soft and unstiffened or if the cleanser is to be substituted for the laundress the difficulty is avoided.

A substitute for the all in one sleeve and bodice is found in a shoulder band trimming running down into the sleeve and supplying the continuous line without eliminating the armhole, and many likable tub frocks and blouses show developments of this idea. Lace or embroidery may form the band; but, often in sheer materials, the shoulder is of very tiny tucks which run on down the sleeve and are set in with beading or narrow lace.

Other tiny tucks shape the sleeve and trim the blouse and in some of the daintiest of the sheer morning frocks, the skirt is finely tucked in groups of one kind or another down to the point where it meets a flat, plaited flounce the skirt line in this way being kept narrow and straight without being overlain or severe for the sheer material.

For hard and constant tubbing the finest materials are best made up in some of the gored skirts. Many of these have some kind of irregular band arrangement around the bottom and if this is skillfully cut and adjusted it need not interfere with successful laundering, though the plain, straight band or single hem is, of course, a safer proposition.

The tendency to run the skirt up past the normal waist line is pronounced among the cottons and linens as elsewhere, but while it may be readily enough worked out in very sheer soft materials it presents tubbing difficulties in the heavier stuffs, such as linen, which must be shaped smoothly and plainly over the waist curve and yet would be quite out of style if stretched tightly as the girder skirts once were. Attached to the bodice or to the top of a wide, firm, tightly fitted inside girder these skirts stay in place snugly enough, but washing and ironing are likely to injure their shapeliness.

This all sounds rather Casandrallike, but a tub frock is a tub frock, and the woman who does not spend her summers near a good French laundry should resign herself to this fact and plan accordingly in these days of home sewing. The ordinary laundress even inveighs against the one piece frock of any sort in the heavier wash materials. She contends that its ironing is a difficult matter, that one part of the frock gets too dry before she has finished ironing the other part of it, and that the whole thing is difficult to handle.

Some of the most successful of the new materials are a fold of soft yet brilliant rose silk crossing from one side to the other of the collar front just at the base of the throat with a little knot at each end and butterfly knots of the same rose set on the outside of the lace sleeve bands. This frock is easily copied yet eminently French in its air.

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A waist and skirt buttoned securely together so that, with the help of a belt or girde, they give the snug, trim effect of a one piece frock will be found a relief to the laundress and one might make this concession in some of one's simple gingham, linens, &c., for hard morning wear. Some form of simple trimming runs down the front of bodice and skirt on a majority of the one piece linens. Often only buttons and button holes are used and the frocks button frankly up the front. Again the buttons are for ornamental purposes only and the button holes or loops are embroidered or simulated in some way.

A front panel of lace or of crosswise stripes on embroidery or a line of trimming running in Russian fashion down one side of the front only—these are used and one pretty blue linen model of which a sketch is given has for its only trimming, aside from collar and cuffs, little flat bows or loops of the linen set vertically down the frock front with little round pearl buckles in the middle of each bow. The collar of this model was one of the many versions of the sailor collar which sprang into popularity this winter and promises to be epidemic during the summer.

It may slope to narrow points in the front or turn down in wide square corners or run straight across from the throat opening to the shoulder points, as it does in the collar of the blue linen model, but it always succeeds in being square and sailor like in the back, save when it falls in a deep rounded line. The collar is pretty and comports amiably with the popular bare throat idea, but is distinctly youthful, and it is likely to be worn by many women whose years and appearance do not justify any hint of youthful girlishness in attire.

A good collar in black, matching other notes of black in the trimming, appears upon a striped black and white cotton frock illustrated among the small figures. This is a simple and effective model for any striped or figured material, but it was particularly good in the black and white, with a narrow line of brilliant cerise running from throat to bust and set with a line of minute black buttons.

Black is, as has been indicated, used to relieve a large percentage of the linens, cottons, &c., and is always effective, though if the frock is to be tubbed the black silk or satin must be so adjusted that it may be readily removed and attached again. A sailor collar of black, with a line of white, or collar inside, next the throat, is used on many simple linen frocks, with cuffs to match, and a narrow black belt or girde, and seldom fails to impart an air of smartness even to a model otherwise evenly plain.

Those who remember a very successful Drécoll model in black satin and pur-

ple launched last fall will recognize a remote kinship between it and the white and blue linen frock of the small picture, with its sleeves and a section of the waist cut in one and simulating a bolero, though this white section is set into the blue waist body. Side skirt sections too are of the white front, back and deep bottom bands are blue.

Boleros are once more making a bid for revival—but of that another time.

Pews at Cut Rates. From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

A reduction of \$2 a year in pew rent will fetch the bargain hunter every time," said a sexton. "Only last week a young woman who expects to make her home in this city concluded that of all city churches of this denomination she liked ours best and would take a pew here, but when she found she could get a pew that suited her about as well in another church for \$3 a year less she let all other considerations go by the board and identified herself with that church."

The cut rate pew hunter is a recognized feature of modern church life. Because a new member elects to join our congregation does not at all signify that he shares our religious convictions or likes the pastor and our service. If we charge less for the pew he likes than another church up the street.

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